

SPECIFICATION

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PERMANENT MAGNET TYPE ROTARY ELECTRIC DEVICE

Background of Invention

- [0001] This invention relates to a permanent magnet rotary type electrical device or machine such as an electric motor or generator and to an improved method for making such machines.
- [0002] As is known, rotary electric machines such as a brushless DC motor or generator utilize a permanent magnet element having a plurality of permanent magnets fixed thereon. The permanent magnet element is juxtaposed to an element having a plurality of poles around which coils are wound and the elements are supported for relative rotation. In a motor, the magnetic field formed by the coil windings is controlled so as to effect rotation. In a generator, relative rotation induces voltage in coil windings.
- [0003] In such machines, the permanent magnets are disposed at circumferentially equal intervals. The slots between the core teeth are also disposed circumferentially at equal intervals. When the machine is used as a generator, it is desirable that the torque necessary to effect rotation when output of the generator is zero (referred to as a cogging torque) is as small as possible. Increased cogging torque will necessitates a larger driving force of an engine or the like to rotate the generator, thus resulting in a larger vibration and load. If it is used as a motor, drive torque in idling becomes larger resulting in power loss as well as increased.
- [0004] It is generally accepted that the cogging torque is inversely proportional to the square of what is referred to as a cogging number. This cogging number is basically the number of coggings that occur each revolution of the machine. This being the number of times the magnetic cores pole passes a permanent magnet per revolution.

of slots therebetween. The permanent magnet element and the armature element are supported for relative rotation. The circumferential magnet angle made by the permanent magnets with respect to the axis of relative rotation produces an effective cogging number that is substantially greater than the least common multiple of the number of slots S and the number of poles P.

[0011] A second feature of the invention is adapted to be embodied in a permanent magnet type rotary electric machine of the type described in the preceding paragraph. In accordance with this feature, the magnitudes of torque exerted on the permanent magnets of N and S poles of the magnet element are selected so that both of the torque values substantially cancel each other.

[0012] Yet another feature of the invention is adapted to be embodied in a method of making a permanent magnet type rotary electric machine of reduced cogging torque. The method comprising the steps of constructing a permanent magnet element comprised of a plurality of permanent magnets of alternate polarity in a circumferential direction with the permanent magnets being of substantially the same shape and disposed circumferentially at equal intervals. An armature element is juxtaposed to the permanent magnet element and has a number of circumferentially spaced core teeth around which coils are wound. The core teeth define a number N of slots therebetween. The permanent magnet element and the armature element are supported for relative rotation. The circumferential magnet angle made by the permanent magnets with respect to the axis of relative rotation is selected to produce a cogging number that is substantially greater than the least common multiple of the number of slots S and the number of poles P.

[0013] A still further feature of the invention is adapted to be embodied in a method as set forth in the preceding paragraph, however the magnitudes of torque exerted on the permanent magnets of N and S poles of the magnet element are selected so that both of the torque values substantially cancel each other.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0014]

FIG. 1 is an end elevational view of a rotating electrical machine constructed in accordance with a first embodiment of the invention with the coil windings removed

but the phases thereof indicated by reference characters.

[0015] FIGS. 2A, 2B and 2C are graphical views showing three different magnet angles and the cogging torque resulting therefrom.

[0016] FIG. 3 is a cross sectional view taken along a plane containing the axis of rotation of a rotating electrical machine constructed in accordance with a second embodiment of the invention.

[0017] FIG. 4 is a developed view showing the coil windings of this embodiment.

Detailed Description

[0018] Before going directly to a description of the preferred embodiments, some general discussion of the theory of the invention will assist those skilled in the art to understand the invention. It has been generally assumed that under certain conditions, the cogging number per revolution of is the least common multiple of the number of slots S and the number of poles P . However the inventors have determined that by selecting the circumferential angle (magnet angle) of the permanent magnet with respect to the axis of rotation the cogging number can be significantly increased from this calculated cogging number. This invention therefore selects the magnet angle of the permanent magnets to increase the actual cogging number and also to decrease the cogging torque by canceling out the cogging torques caused by the alternate poles. This could have been achieved by testing various physical relationships, but has been expedited by computer analysis, as will be described shortly.

[0019] Referring now in detail to the embodiment of FIG. 1, a rotating electrical machine constructed in accordance with this embodiment is identified generally by the reference numeral 11. Since the invention deals primarily with the number of permanent magnets and their circumferential extent and spacing and the number of cooperating pole teeth, the general overall construction is not illustrated and only the permanent magnet element, indicated generally by the reference numeral 12 and the cooperating magnetic pole tooth element, indicated generally by the reference numeral 13 are shown.

[0020] In addition, the winding of the pole teeth of the element 13 are not illustrated but it is to be understood that the individual teeth are wound in a three phase pattern with the phases indicated by the reference characters U, V, W. The pole teeth are wound in opposite directions with those with the overhead bar being oppositely wound with respect to those lacking the overhead bar.

[0021] In this illustrated embodiment, the permanent magnet element 12 rotates and is comprised of an outer shell 14 on which four permanent magnets, indicated by the reference numeral 15 are affixed in circumferentially spaced positions. The permanent magnets 15 have an arcuate configuration and each has substantially the same physical characteristics with the magnet angle θ of each being equal and of an extent which will be described shortly.

[0022] The coil winding element 13 is comprised of a fixed central part 16 from which eighteen (18) core teeth 17 extend in a radial direction with their tips being spaced closely proximate to the permanent magnets 15. The winding of the coils thereon is as afore described. Although the system is described in conjunction with a rotating permanent magnet and a fixed pole core element which is disposed circumferentially inwardly thereof, the opposite relation can be employed and the rotational elements and affixed elements being reversed. The angle between the centers of the permanent magnets 15 is 90° in this embodiment.

[0023] In accordance with the invention, the magnet angle θ is chosen in such a way that even though the normally assumed cogging number for the machine 11 would be 36, this being the lowest integral equally divisible by the number (4) of permanent magnets 15 and number (18) of magnetic pole teeth 17, the magnet angle is chosen so that the cogging torques of the individual magnets will cancel each other out substantially and to provide a cogging number that is twice that would normally be expected i.e. 72. Although this effect could be achieved by running a number of tests at varying magnet angles, the inventors have discovered that the computation can be simulated through readily available software.

[0024] This software is one of electromagnetic field analyzing tools for electromechanical design and is capable of calculating torque exerted on a selected portion. For example software sold under the name "Maxwell 2D Field Simulator" supplied by "Ansoft Japan

the torque T_N exerted on the permanent magnets 15N of N poles and the torque T_S exerted on the permanent magnets 15S of S poles are produced come to very close to each other. As a result, peaks of the sum $T(N + S)$ of these torque values appears at half the period of that of the cases (2A), (2C), and 72 times for one revolution of the rotor 12. A much smaller cogging torque $T(N + S)$ required to get over these peaks is 0.008 N.m. As a result of the foregoing analysis, it can be seen that in the case of the magnet angle $\theta = 67.5^\circ$, the cogging number per revolution of the rotor 12 is 72, which is two times the least common multiple 36 of the number $S (= 18)$ of slots and the number $P (= 4)$ of poles.

[0031] Although in this embodiment the magnet angle θ is set at an angle near $\theta = 67.5^\circ$, a magnet angle θ at which the cogging number increases, can also be found in a range below $\theta = 60^\circ$. For example, it is expected that there is a desirable magnet angle θ at an angle near $\theta = 57^\circ$. Also, as already noted, this invention can be applied not only to the outer rotor type motor or generator, but also to the inner rotor type.

[0032] FIGS. 3 and 4 show a second embodiment of the invention with FIG. 3 being a cross sectional view taken through the axis of rotation of the rotating electrical machine constructed in accordance with this embodiment and which is indicated generally by the reference numeral 51. In this embodiment, the machine 51 is a motor, but again it will be apparent to those skilled in the art how the invention can be employed in conjunction with generators.

[0033] The motor 51 has an outer housing, indicated generally by the reference numeral 52 which is comprised of a circumferentially extending stator shell 53 which has a plurality of circumferentially spaced cylindrical permanent magnet segments 54 affixed thereto with alternating polarities. As with the previously described embodiment, there are four permanent magnets 54 and these magnets have a magnet angle of about 67.5° .

[0034] The motor housing 52 is completed by end closures 55 and 56 that are detachably affixed to the stator shell 53 by fasteners 57. Bearings 58 and 59 are fixed in the end closures 55 and 56 and journal the end of a rotor shaft 61. The rotor shaft 61 has affixed to it a laminated core assembly, indicated generally by the reference numeral

62 which has a cylindrical inner portion that is suitably fixed to the shaft 61 and from which eighteen (18) pole teeth 63 extend. The tip ends 64 of the pole teeth are in confronting relationship to the permanent magnets 54.

[0035] Windings 65 encircle these pole teeth 63 and are wound in a pattern as shown in the developed view of FIG. 4. These windings 65 are connected at their ends to respective commutator strips 66 as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4. These commutator strips 66 are suitably affixed to the rotor shaft 61 and are engaged by brushes 67 held by respective brush holders 68 so as to transfer electrical current to the windings 65, in a manner well known in this art. Thus, this embodiment like the previously described embodiment, results in a cogging number of 72 which is at least twice the common multiple 36 of the number of magnets 54 and pole teeth 63.

[0036] Therefore, from the foregoing description it should be readily apparent that it is possible to reduce the cogging torque by increasing the cogging number without necessarily increasing the number of pole teeth or permanent magnets as previously thought. Of course, this advantage applies to electrical motors or electrical generators and, in fact, can be applied to linear electrical machines. Of course, the foregoing description is that of preferred embodiments of the invention and various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.